

Find Shell Unloaded

Tests made yesterday at Joliet Arsenal on a 120 millimeter shell found recently near Lily Cache proved that the shell was unloaded.

"But it's better to be safe than sorry," said one Arsenal official, who asked that the public notify police or Arsenal authorities at any time they find shells or other explosive materials laying about.

THE SHELL removed Tuesday to the Arsenal testing grounds was found about a month ago by five Lily Cache youngsters, who were pounding on the shell with a hammer. A neighbor noticed the "plaything" and checked it. He saw that it appeared to be loaded with a fuse and booster and contacted Arsenal officials.

Crews handled the shell with care as they moved it to the testing grounds.

YESTERDAY an explosive charge was set under the shell. But instead of making a big hole in the ground the charge resulted in blowing only a big hole in the shell which was hollow and inert. However, there was a dummy plug in the bottom of the shell which resembled a booster. These plugs are inserted, it was explained, to keep water from getting into the shell in case the shell is ever needed for loading explosives.

Apparently the shell was a war time souvenir or one the army has sold as scrap to metal dealers as obsolete.

"But when the public finds things like this shell they should assume that it is loaded until it can be proven otherwise at safety regulated testing areas," the Arsenal aide added.